

WINNER OF FIVE 2018 EISNER AWARDS

MONSTRESS



ISSUE 19

MARJORIE LIU
SANA TAKEDA

BEST WRITER • BEST PAINTER/MULTIMEDIA ARTIST • BEST COVER ARTIST
BEST PUBLICATION FOR TEENS • BEST CONTINUING SERIES

THE MONSTRESS STORY SO FAR...

Maika Halfwolf's quest to learn more about her late mother's life and death has brought her far more than she bargained for. After a series of dangerous journeys, horrifying encounters, and narrow escapes, Maika finally made it to the refuge city of Pontus, but every power in the Known World remains desperate to control or destroy Maika and the ancient Monstrum, that she inherited from the Shaman-Empress.

In Pontus, Maika tried to repair the famed shield that protected the city during the wars between humans and Arcanics. But her attempt failed, and the city soon found itself invaded by an even more dangerous power — a Cumaeen Inquisitrix named Gull who used two pieces of the Shaman-Empress's mask to open a rift between the Known World and the realm that houses the long-imprisoned Monstra.

Maika and Zinn used all of their combined strength to close the rift, trapping the Monstra once more and averting certain apocalypse. However, the devastating aftereffects of the breach remain, driving some Arcanics to uncontrollable madness.

Meanwhile, Maika's young friend, Kippa, was betrayed by their fellow companion, the double-agent nekomancer Ren. Now, in the midst of the post-breach chaos, Maika and her self-appointed protector, Corvin, must find the kidnapped Kippa before her captors can take her to the mysterious "doctor," whose plans for the young girl are likely far from benevolent.

THE PLAYERS...



MAIKA An Arcanic teen who survived the Great War, and slavery at the hands of the Cumaeen witch nuns. Ruthless and haunted, she is determined to uncover the truth behind her mother's murder — and her mother's secrets — in the hope that she can free herself from an ancient and dangerous god called a Monstrum that is imprisoned inside her body and fills her with an otherworldly hunger for human flesh.



ZINN A mysterious, primordial Monstrum of tremendous power that shares Maika's body and mind, and fights her for control. Once considered a god, and drawn into this world by the Shaman-Empress, this Monstrum is driven by a deadly hunger, consuming the lives of humans and Arcanics alike, leaving only their desiccated corpses behind. Though it may give the impression that its only wish is to survive, there's far more to this creature, and its desires, than meets the eye...



KIPPA An Arcanic fox girl saved from slavery by Maika. Innocent and optimistic, she is frightened by the Monstrum — but trusts Maika and will bravely defend her and others by rushing into battles too dangerous for a child.



REN An enigmatic nekomancer cat with mysterious motives, he is one of Maika's companions on her journey, and perhaps an agent of the Dusk Court — or some greater power.



SIR CORVIN D'ORO An Arcanic Lord, First Watchman of the Court and Commander of the Inner Wall. He is loyal to the Dusk Court but has willingly defied their orders because of his desire to protect Maika and his belief that she can and will serve a greater purpose.

YEARS AGO.

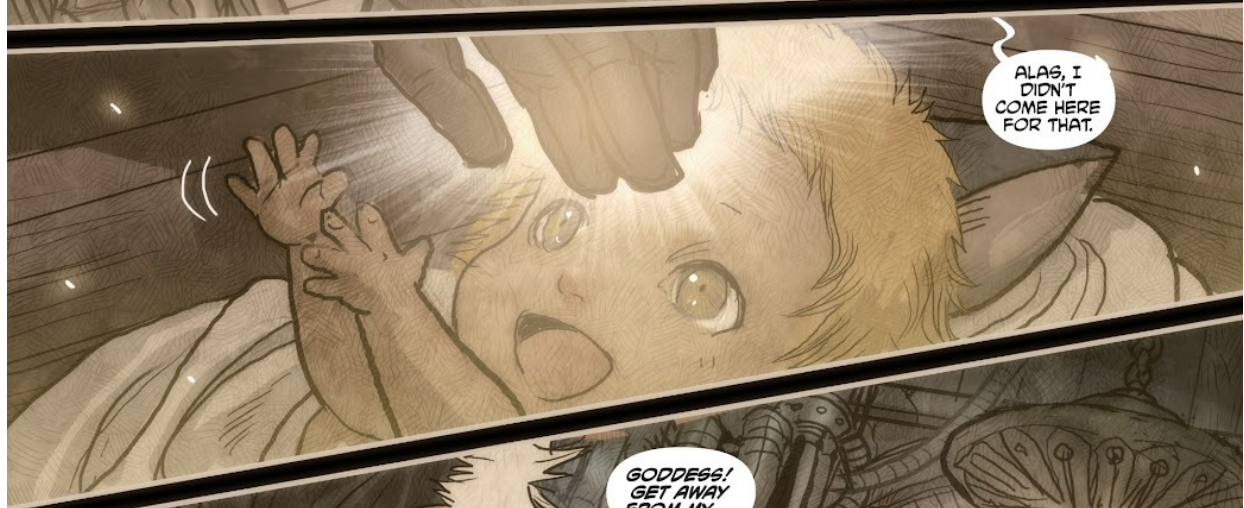
LITTLE
KITSUNAE.

LOOK
HOW YOU
GLOW.





YOUR LIGHT
IS SWEET
ENOUGH TO
EAT.



ALAS, I
DIDN'T
COME HERE
FOR THAT.



GODDESS!
GET AWAY
FROM MY --

BE QUIET...

...BEFORE YOU
SAY ANYTHING
YOU MIGHT
REGRET.

SURELY
YOU ARE NOT
SO LOWLY THAT
YOU CANNOT
RECOGNIZE
WHAT I AM.



SAY
NOTHING
OF THIS TO
ANYONE.

Y-YES, OF
COURSE.



ISN'T ANY
PLACE SAFE
FOR US?

IF IT ISN'T
HUMANS, IT'S
OUR OWN
KIND.

THAT
WASN'T...
OUR
KIND.



SO,
YOU WERE
AWAKE,
DRUNKARD?

AND YOU
DID NOTHING?
SAID
NOTHING?



HOW
COULD
I?
I IMAGINED
IT.

NO, YOU
FOOL. IT WAS
AN *ANCIENT*,
ANointing OUR
DAUGHTER!



AN
ANCIENT,
EH?

WHEN WE TELL
THE OTHERS IN
THIS BLASTED
REFUGEE CAMP,
EVERYONE WILL
WANT A CHANCE
TO BE BLESSED
BY HER.

WE MIGHT
JUST MAKE
ENOUGH COIN
TO GET OUT
OF HERE.



HAVE YOU
LOST YOUR
MIND?

YOU HEARD
WHAT THEY
SAID. THIS IS A
SECRET, MAYBE
A BAD ONE.

WHEN WAS
THE LAST TIME AN
ANCIENT HELPED ANYONE
BUT THEMSELVES?
THAT WASN'T A
BLESSING...IT WAS
A CURSE.



GODDESS
SAVE YOU
FROM YOUR
ELDERS,
KIPPA...



"...MAY YOU ALWAYS FIND THE LIGHT."

STEADY NOW... NO FAST MOVEMENTS...

AAIII!

AAIIIEEEE!

AHHH!

ଗହ୍ୱତ୍ୱହ୍ୱତ୍ୱ

YARRRGH!

AAIIIEEEE!

ୱାଡ଼ାୱାଡ଼ା



IF I START TO LOSE MY MIND LIKE THESE FUCKERS, YOU KILL ME... DON'T WAIT...

YARRRGH!

AHHH!

AAIIIEEEE!

ୱାଡ଼ାୱାଡ଼ା

ୱାଡ଼ାୱାଡ଼ା

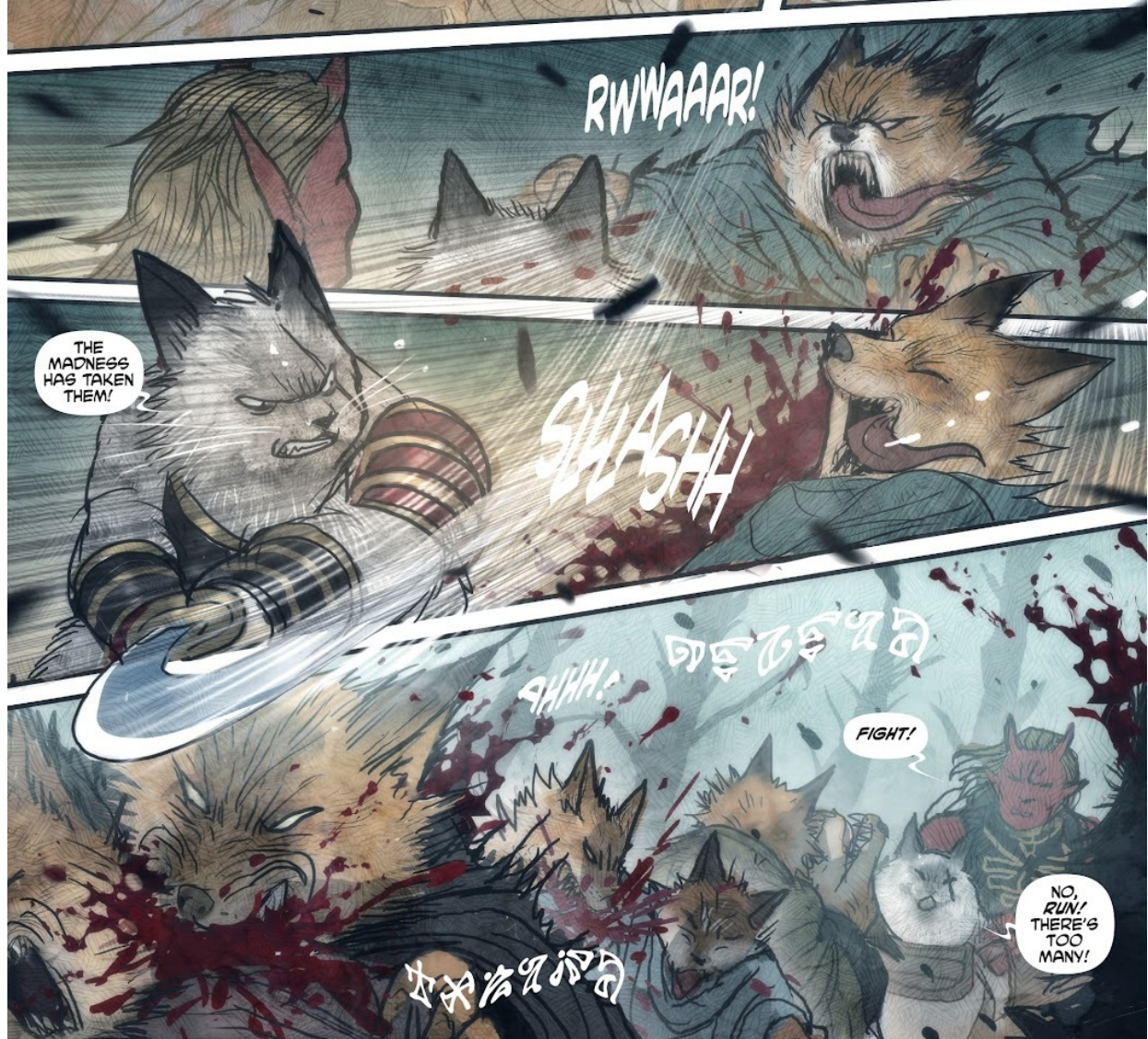
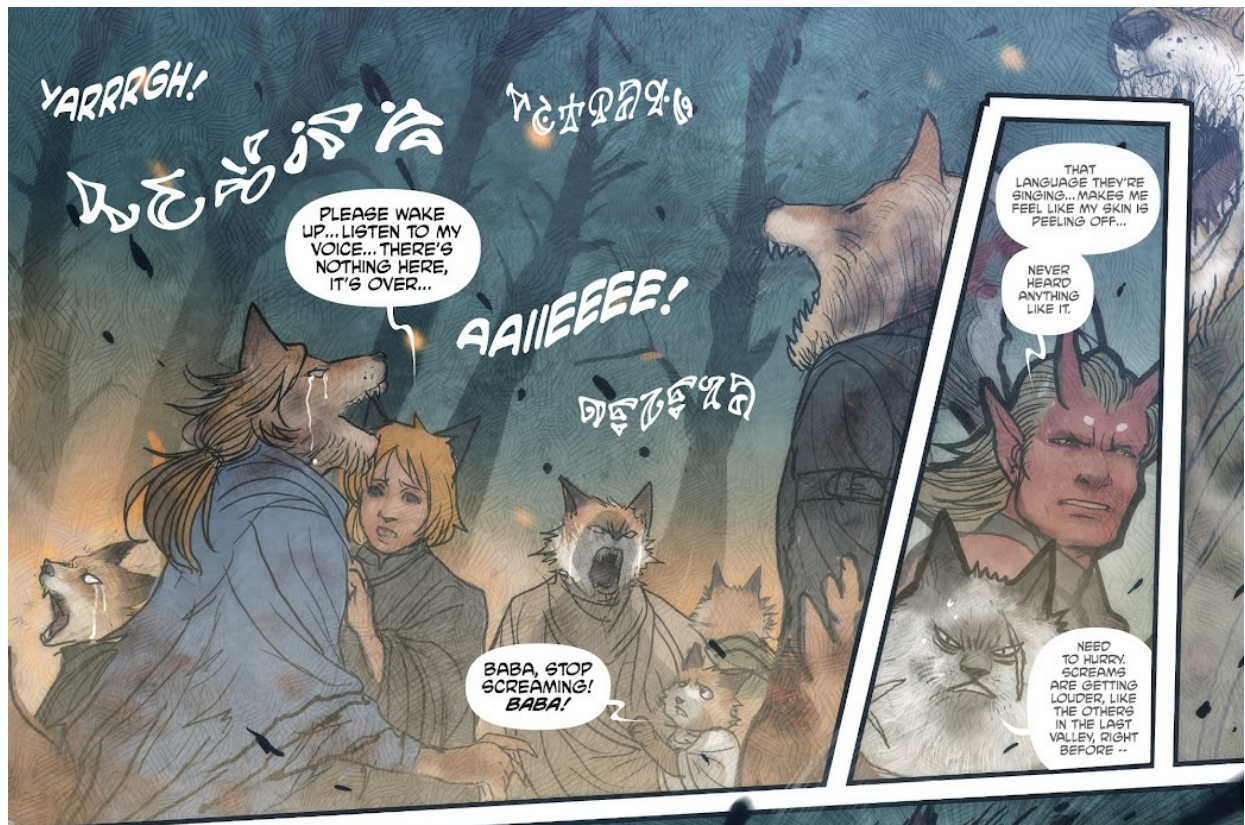
AAIIIEEEE!

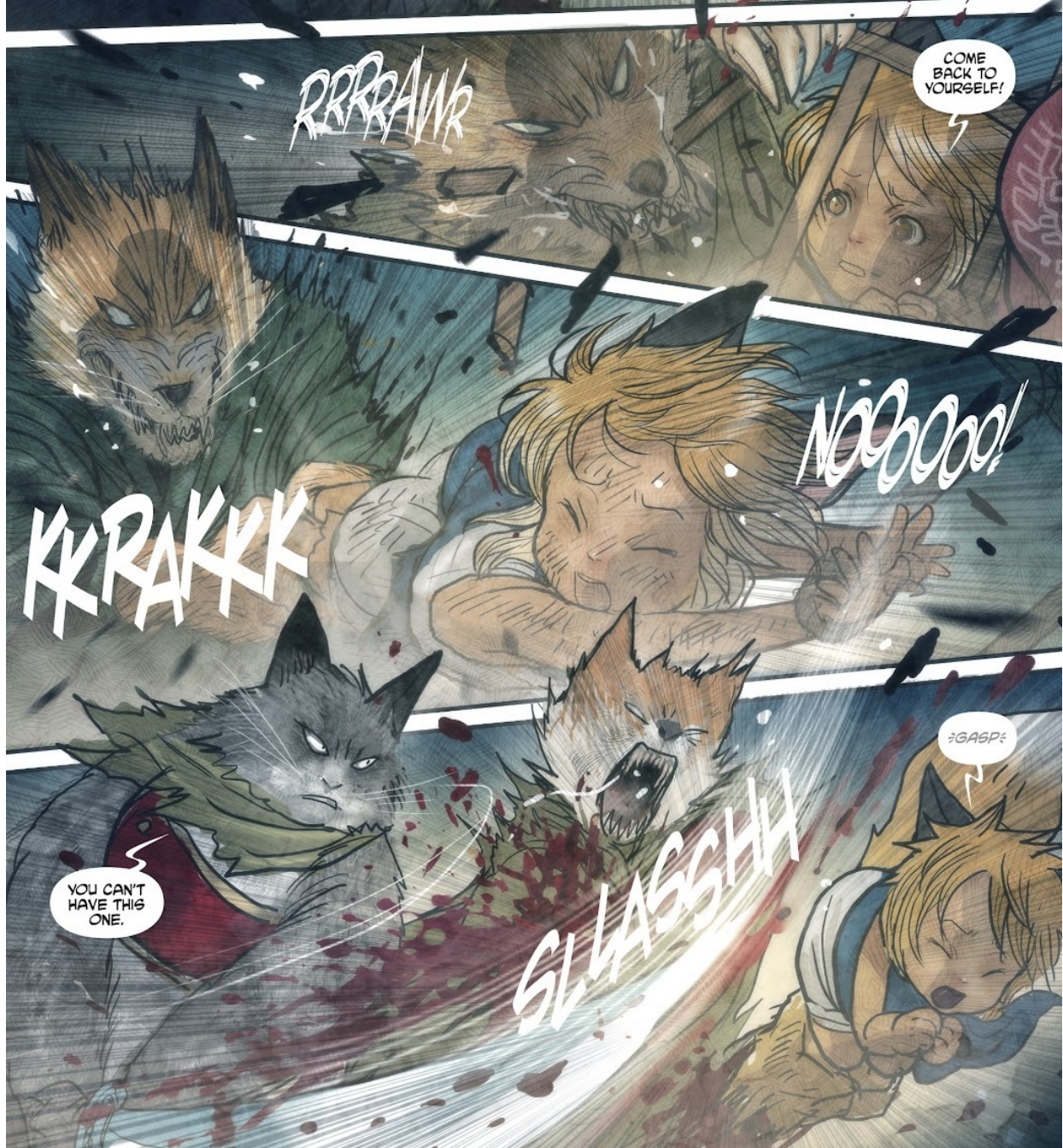
AAIII!

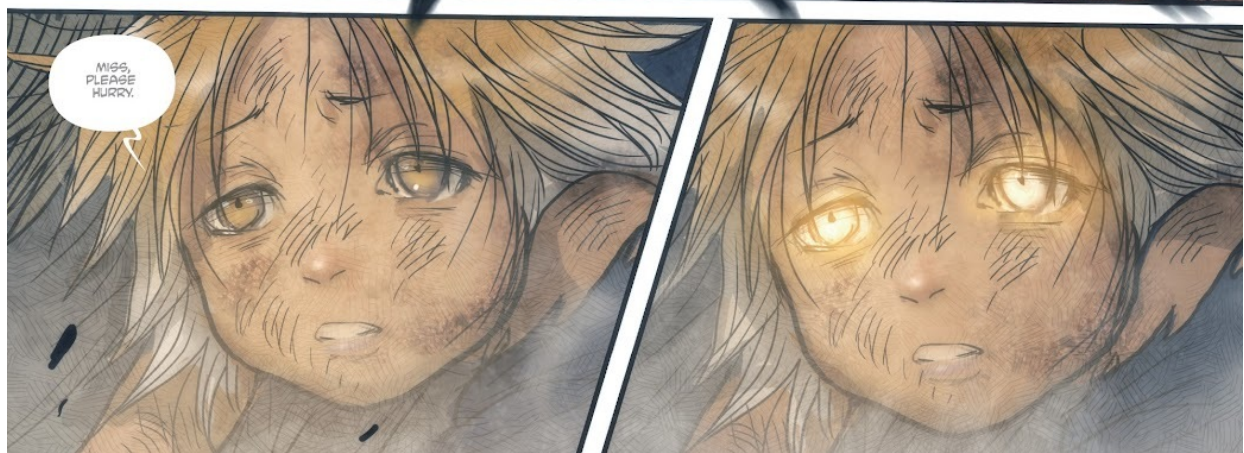
AIN'T SEEN A CAT YET BEEN AFFECTED BY THE OLD GOD'S SHADOW.

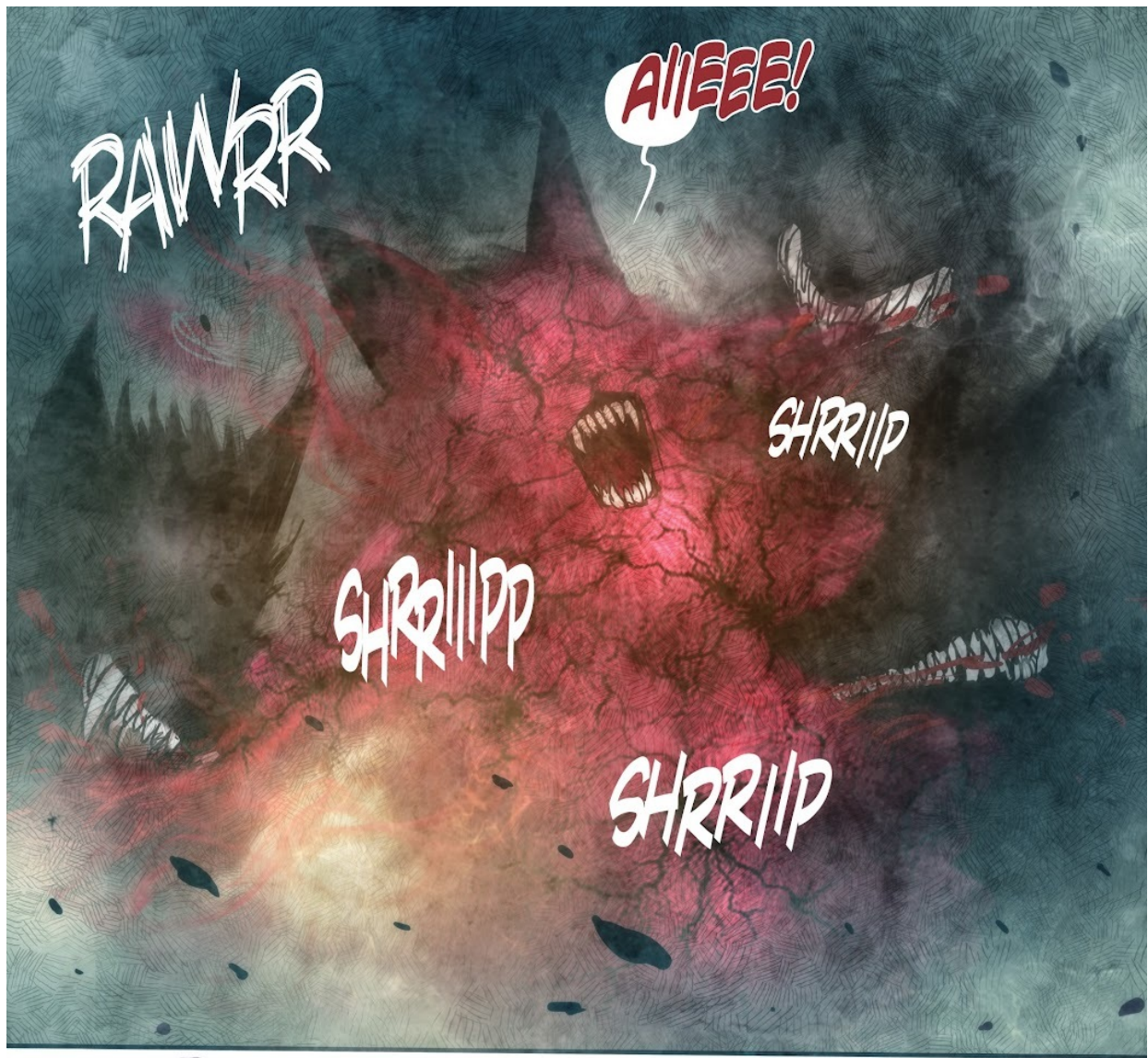
ଗହ୍ୱତ୍ୱହ୍ୱତ୍ୱ

ୱାଡ଼ାୱାଡ଼ା













BUT DID YOU
HAVE TO BRING
SO MANY OF
THEM WITH YOU,
DIA?

JUST KEEP
SHOOTING,
YAFANELA.



FOR
FUCK'S
SAKE,
HURRY!

ALL THIS
TROUBLE,
JUST FOR
YOU?

PIKES AND
HALBERDS,
I SWEAR THE
DOCTOR REALLY
IS LOCO.

*I'm back, Tuya.
Back there.*

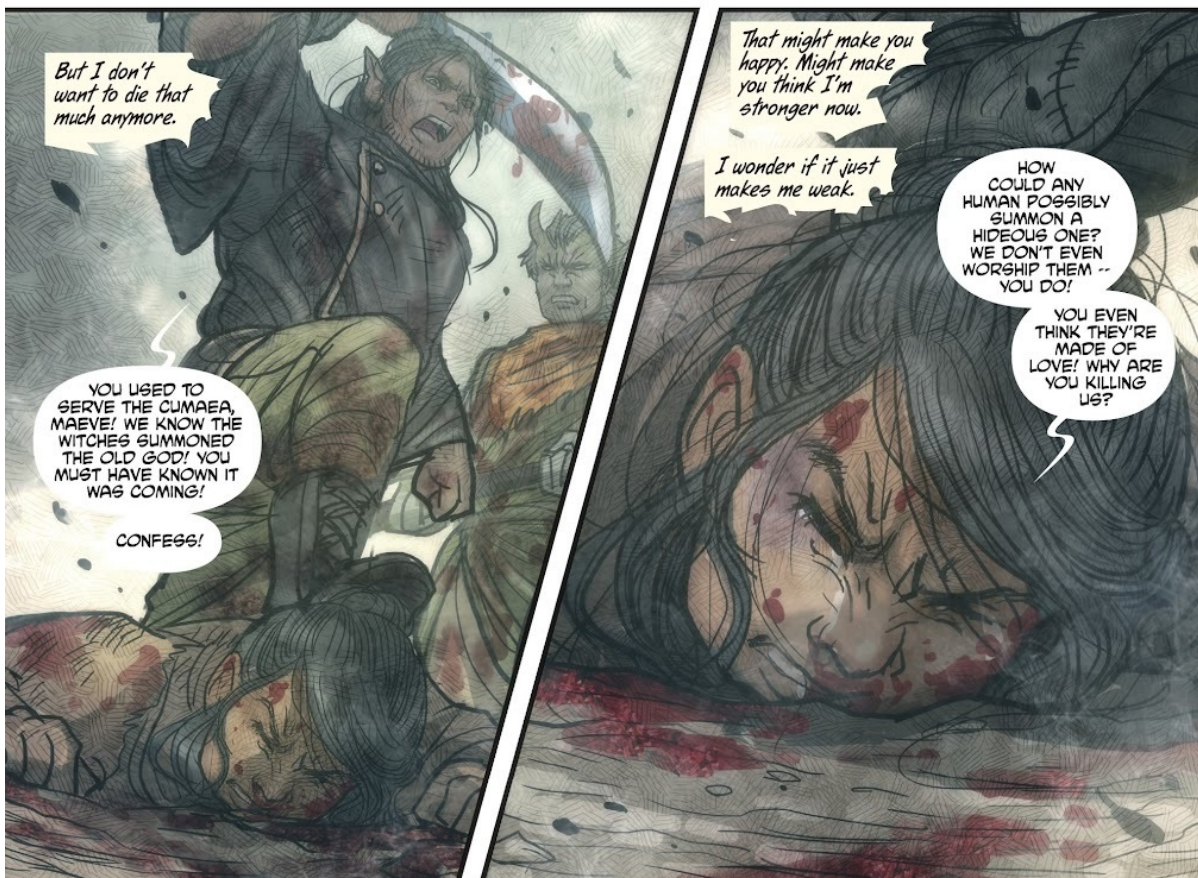
THAT A SINGLE
BREACH COULD
CAUSE ALL THIS
MADNESS...

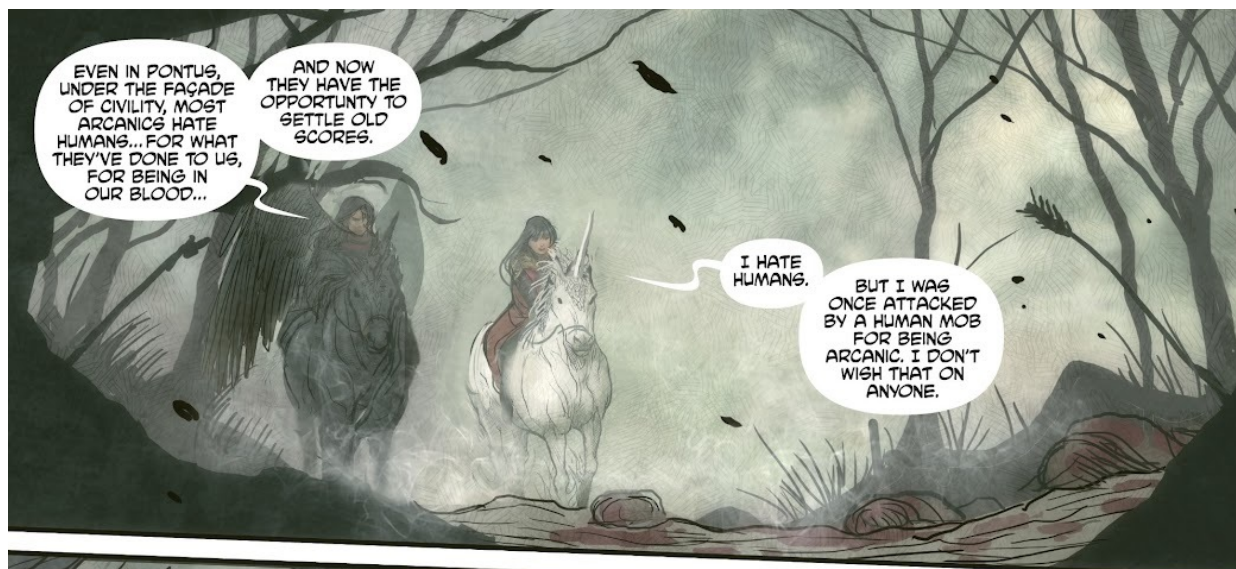
... I WOULD
NOT HAVE
BELIEVED
IT.

You called it hell.

BELIEVE
IT.







EVEN IN PONTUS,
UNDER THE FAÇADE
OF CIVILITY, MOST
ARCANICS HATE
HUMANS...FOR WHAT
THEY'VE DONE TO US,
FOR BEING IN
OUR BLOOD...

AND NOW
THEY HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
SETTLE OLD
SCORES.

I HATE
HUMANS.

BUT I WAS
ONCE ATTACKED
BY A HUMAN MOB
FOR BEING
ARCANIC. I DON'T
WISH THAT ON
ANYONE.



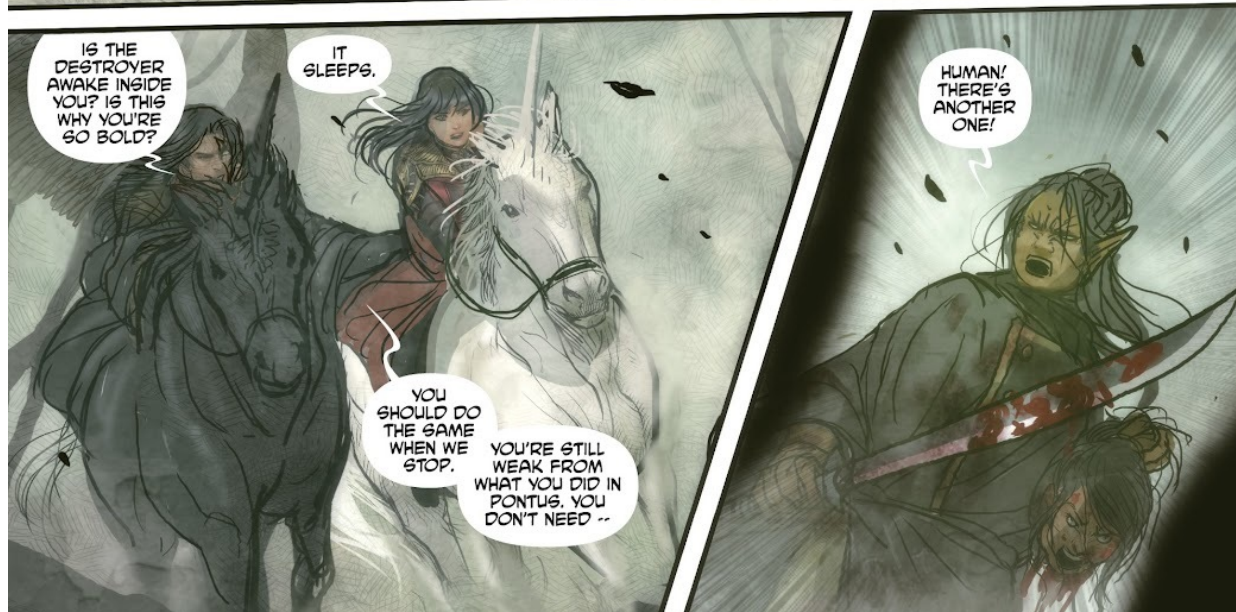
I PREFER
DEALING WITH
THE RABID
SOULS WE
ENCOUNTERED
ON THE ROAD.

WE'LL FIND
ANOTHER
WAY
AROUND.

IT'LL
TAKE TOO
LONG.



LADY
HALFWOLF!



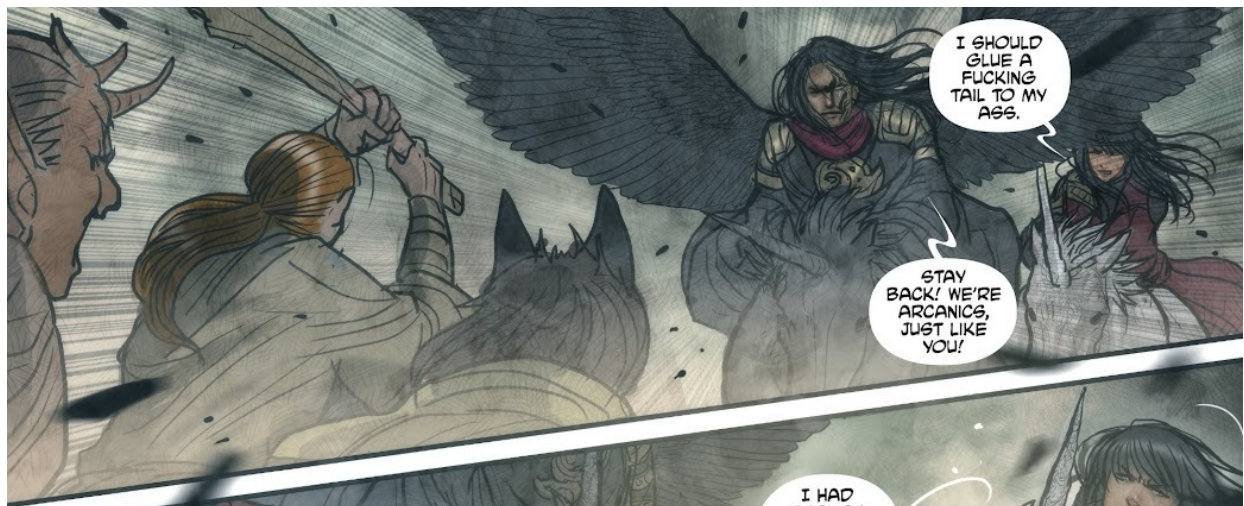
IS THE
DESTROYER
AWAKE INSIDE
YOU? IS THIS
WHY YOU'RE
SO BOLD?

IT
SLEEPS.

YOU
SHOULD DO
THE SAME
WHEN WE
STOP.

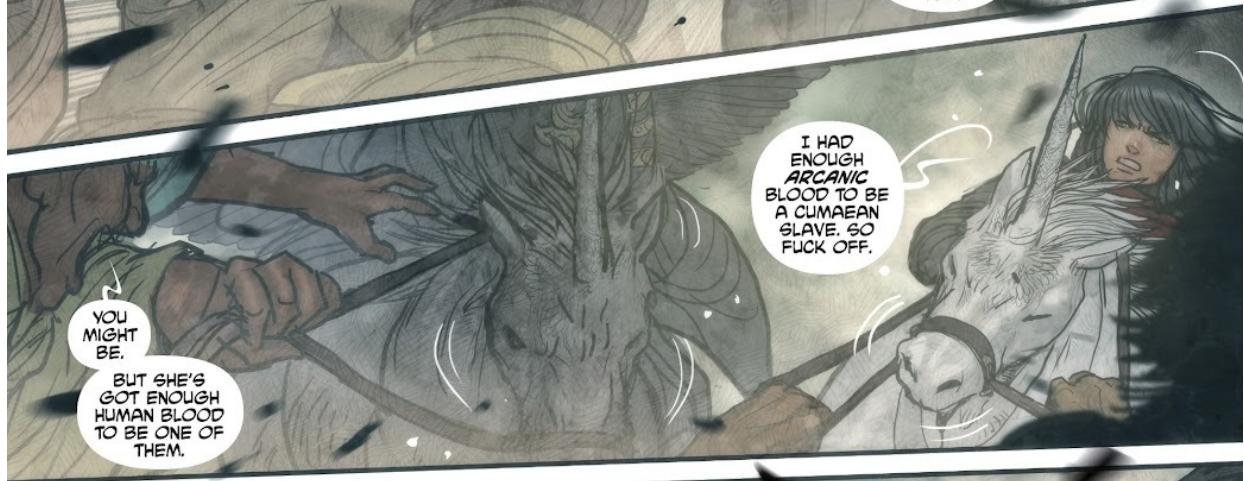
YOU'RE STILL
WEAK FROM
WHAT YOU DID IN
PONTUS. YOU
DON'T NEED --

HUMAN!
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE!



I SHOULD GLUE A FUCKING TAIL TO MY ASS.

STAY BACK! WE'RE ARCANICS, JUST LIKE YOU!



I HAD ENOUGH **ARCANIC** BLOOD TO BE A CUMAEAN SLAVE. SO FUCK OFF.

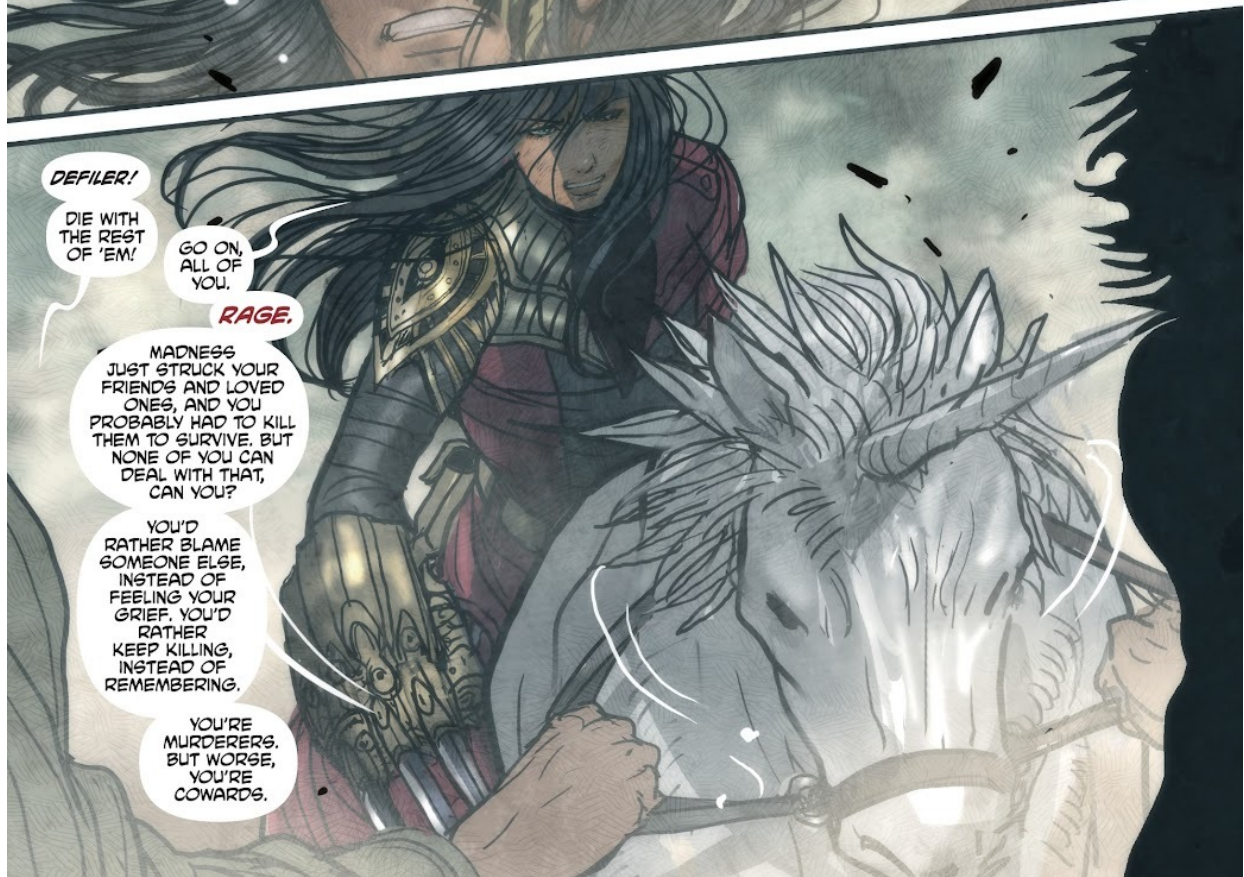
YOU MIGHT BE.

BUT SHE'S GOT ENOUGH HUMAN BLOOD TO BE ONE OF THEM.



WHERE ARE YOUR SENSES?

CAN YOU NOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARCANIC NOBILITY AND HUMANS?



DEFILER!

DIE WITH THE REST OF 'EM!

GO ON, ALL OF YOU.

RAGE.

MADNESS JUST STRUCK YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES, AND YOU PROBABLY HAD TO KILL THEM TO SURVIVE. BUT NONE OF YOU CAN DEAL WITH THAT, CAN YOU?

YOU'D RATHER BLAME SOMEONE ELSE, INSTEAD OF FEELING YOUR GRIEF. YOU'D RATHER KEEP KILLING, INSTEAD OF REMEMBERING.

YOU'RE MURDERERS. BUT WORSE, YOU'RE COWARDS.



KILL THE HUMAN!
SKIN HER ALIVE!

SWASH

MURDERER!

SHE'S GOT NO
RIGHT TO LIVE!

CHINK

TEAR
HER SKIN
FROM
HER!

GODDESS,
MAY YOUR
LIGHT
SHINE WITH
LOVE...

SHINK



Wherever you are, Tuya, I hope you're safe.

PRAYERS? REALLY?

...AND FORGIVE THE FURY THAT DRIVES THESE PEOPLE TO MURDER...

...AND THE LIVES WE TAKE TO DEFEND OURSELVES...

FUCK!

I hope you're not scared.

I hope you're not alone.

THIS WILL STOP YOU.

SH NKY

I brought it on myself. I pulled a string that unraveled the world.

Revenge...my mother... it wasn't worth it.

NOT EVEN THE CUMAEA WORKED THIS HARD TO KILL ME.

THEY WILL NOT SUCCEED.

Goddess...

...I had a beautiful life with you, Tuya...

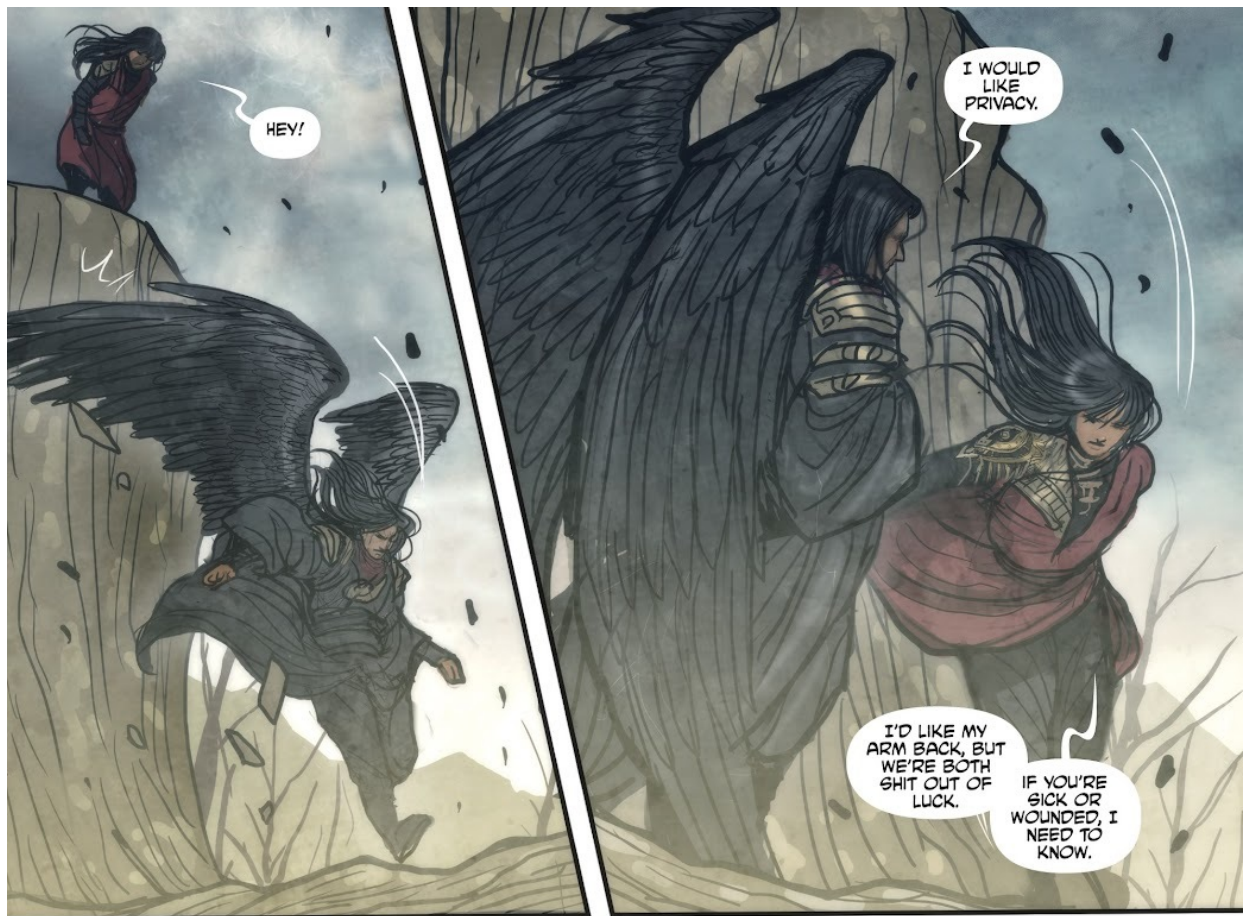
THIS IS NOT HOW IT ENDS.

SWASHH

...I wish I'd appreciated it.



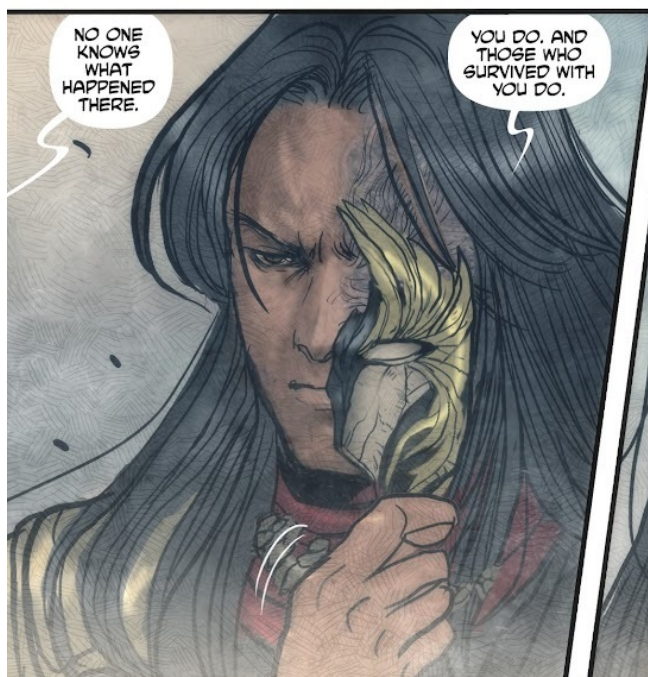
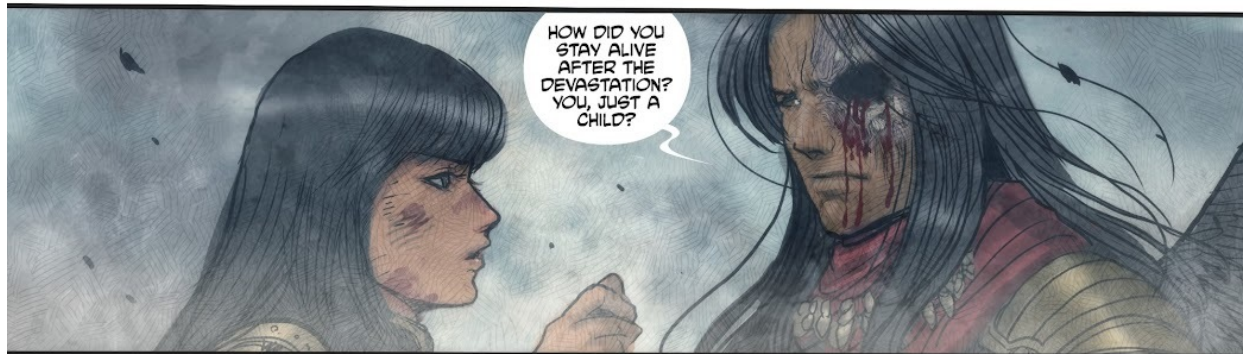


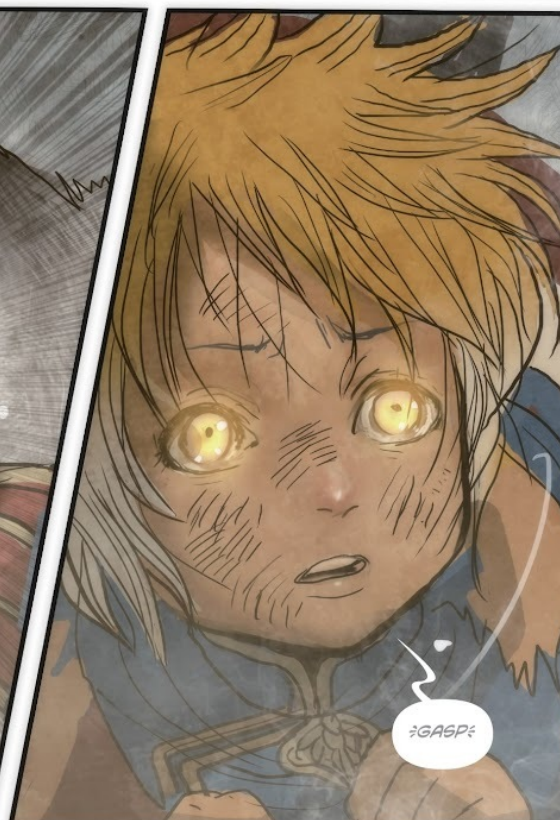
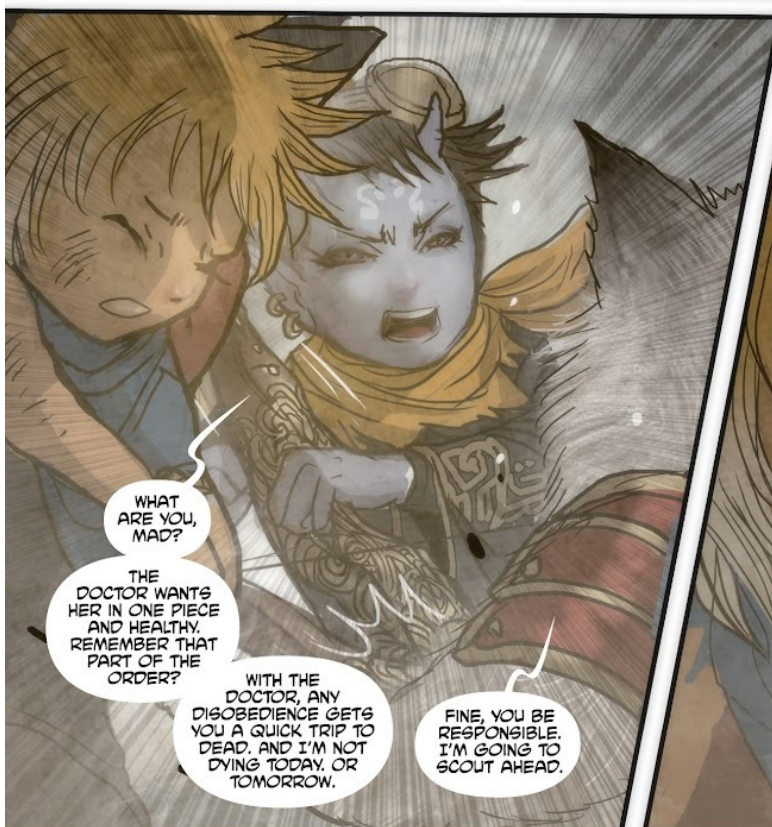
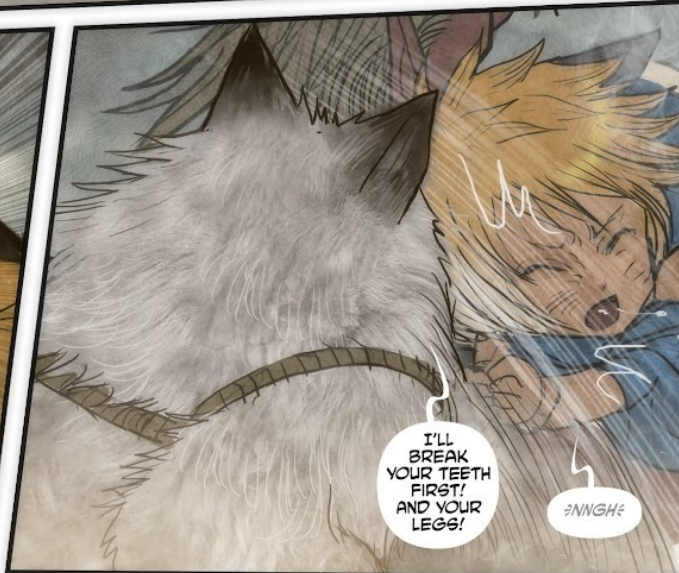
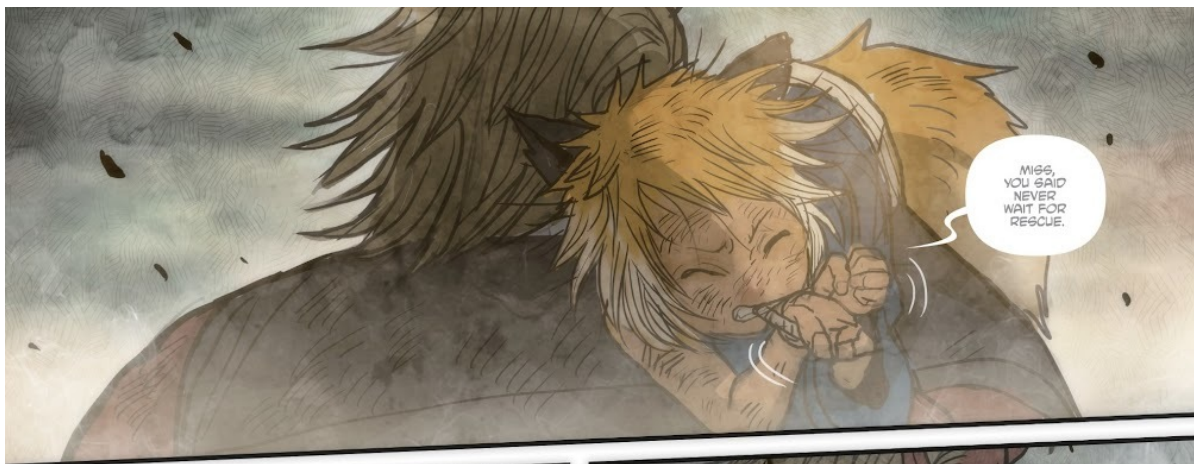


I WAS FAR
AWAY. MY SISTER'S
FORCES WERE
RETREATING. I KNEW I
HAD TO HURRY, BUT...
I TURNED TO LOOK AT
THE CITY ONE
LAST TIME.

THE
DARKNESS
BURNED
ME.

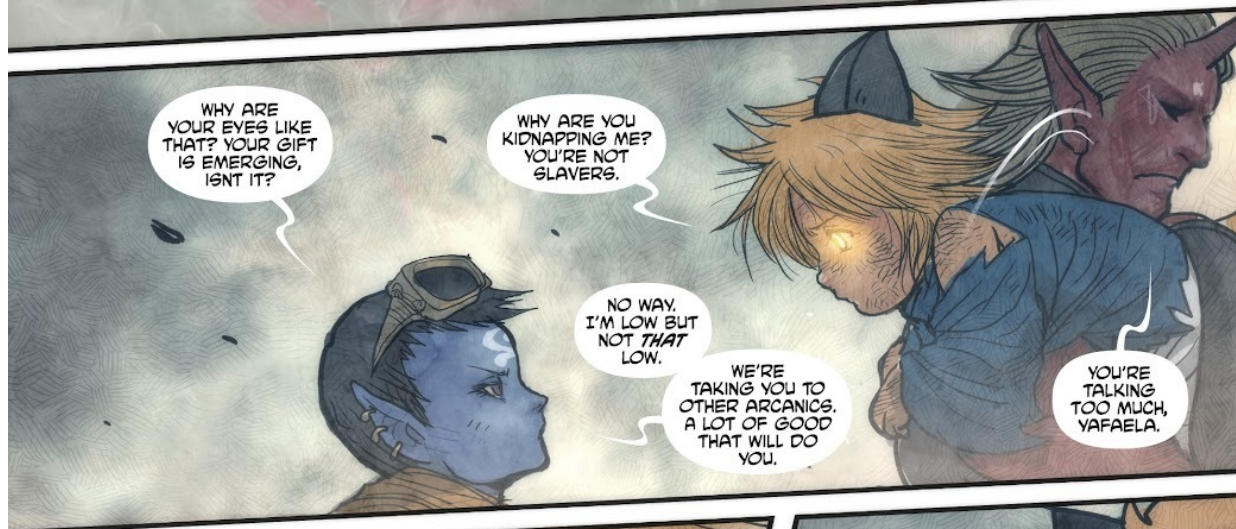








BOLTS AND
ARROWS....
THE FOX'S EYES
ARE GLOWING
AGAIN.



WHY ARE
YOUR EYES LIKE
THAT? YOUR GIFT
IS EMERGING,
ISNT IT?

WHY ARE YOU
KIDNAPPING ME?
YOU'RE NOT
SLAVERS.

NO WAY,
I'M LOW BUT
NOT *THAT*
LOW.

WE'RE
TAKING YOU TO
OTHER ARCANICS.
A LOT OF GOOD
THAT WILL DO
YOU.

YOU'RE
TALKING
TOO MUCH,
YAFANELA.



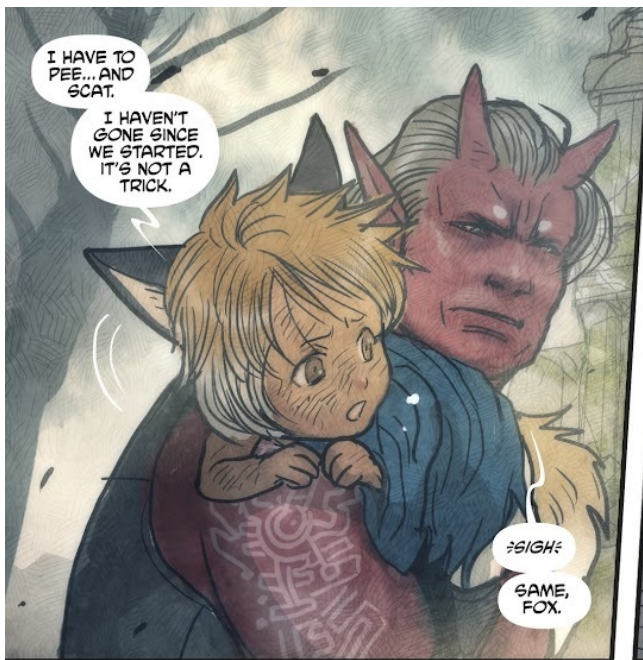
WHO IS THE
DOCTOR?

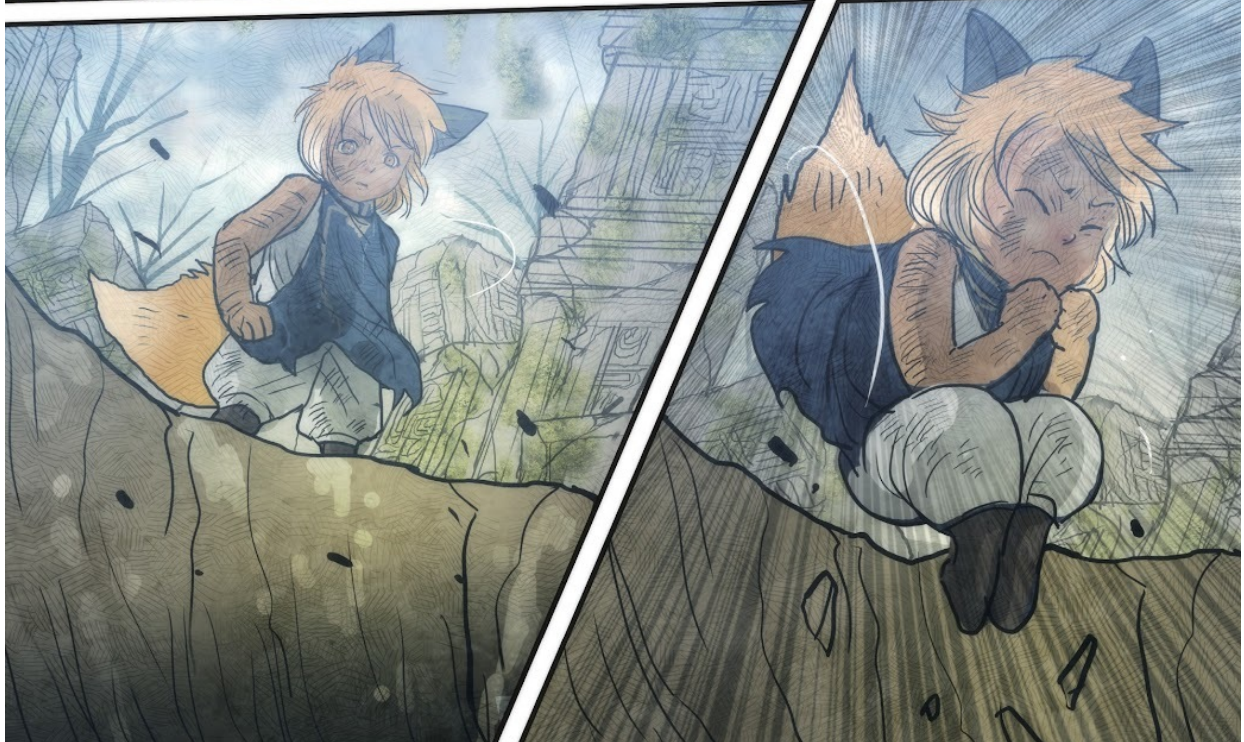
WHEN YOUR
EYES GLOWED,
WHAT DID YOU
SEE?

TELL ME
ABOUT THE
DOCTOR
FIRST.

HOW
ABOUT I
HIT YOU?

YOU WON'T.
EVEN IF YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO, THE
BUTTERFLIES
WOULDN'T LET
YOU.







Archival research from the esteemed **Professor Tam Tam**, former First Record-Keeper of the Is'hami Temple, and learned contemporary of Namron Black Claw...



NEXT ISSUE

MONSTRESS



ISSUE 20

MARJORIE LIU

SANA TAKEDA

WINNER OF FIVE 2018 EISNER AWARDS

#monstress

MONSTRESS™

ISSUE 19

WRITTEN BY MARJORIE LIU
ILLUSTRATED BY SANA TAKEDA

LETTERING & DESIGN BY RUS WOOTON
EDITED BY JENNIFER M SMITH
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: CERI RILEY

MONSTRESS™ CREATED BY
MARJORIE LIU & SANA TAKEDA



IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Robert Kirkman • Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen • Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane • President
Marc Silvestri • Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino • Vice President
Eric Stephenson • Publisher/Chief Creative Officer
Corey Hart • Director of Sales
Jeff Boison • Director of Publishing Planning
& Book Trade Sales
Chris Ross • Director of Digital Sales
Jeff Stang • Director of Specialty Sales
Kat Salazar • Director of PR & Marketing
Drew Gill • Art Director
Heather Doornink • Production Director
Nicole Lapalme • Controller
IMAGECOMICS.COM

MONSTRESS™ #19, January 2019. Published by Image Comics, Inc.
Office of publication: 2701 NW Vaughn St., Suite 780, Portland, OR 97210.
Copyright © 2019 Marjorie Liu & Sana Takeda. All rights reserved.
"Monstress," its logos, and the likenesses of all characters herein are trademarks of Marjorie Liu & Sana Takeda, unless otherwise noted.
"Image" and the Image Comics logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for journalistic or review purposes), without the express written permission of Marjorie Liu & Sana Takeda, or Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, or places, without satirical intent, is coincidental. Digital edition. For international rights, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com.

MONSTRESS



IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED M / MATURE • EPIC FANTASY

